

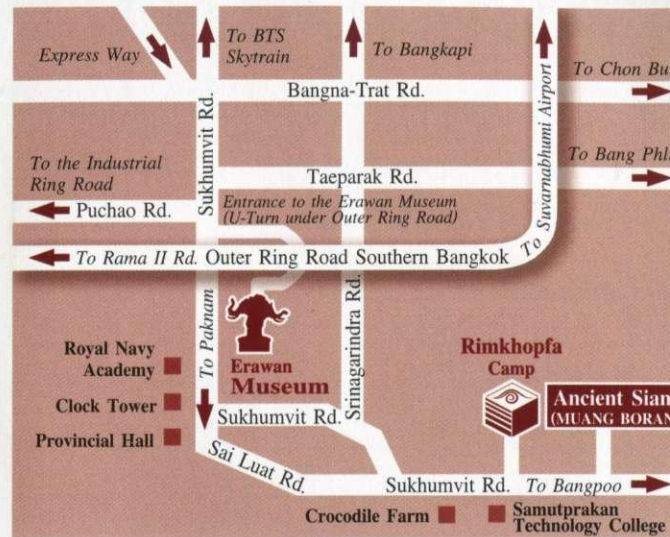
Erawan Museum

The Cosmography of the East

This three-headed elephant, Airavata, was born of Khun Lek Viriyapant's ideas and imagination. It was inspired by his wish to preserve his collection of antiques as a contribution to Thai cultural heritage. Many of these were priceless objects of art; they were also held as sacred objects for people of ancient cultures. According to ancient traditions, they were believed to bring blessing and prosperity to the land and its people, and therefore must not be lost to outsiders. It had been Mr. Viriyapant's concern to find a way that would keep these objects safe and that would also be suitable to their traditional functions. One day he had a visit from a Westerner who, during the course of the conversation, suggested the idea of constructing the most important building in the town in the form of an apple which, according to Western traditions of belief, played a crucial part in the shaping of human destiny. This suggestion was warmly welcomed by Mr. Viriyapant. He nevertheless thought it more appropriate to adhere to Eastern traditions and thus decided on the heavenly elephant Airavata of Hindu mythology. In addition, he wanted this three-headed elephant to be more than just the vehicle of the god Indra. The elephant would be a symbol of the centre of the universe and, as such, the building would function symbolically as the spiritual heart of the land where sacred objects of the land were housed and revered. He then designed the building and gave the design to Khun Pagpean Viriyapant, his eldest son, to begin construction.

Already during the construction, the building attracted people who came to worship. Thus it fulfilled Khun Lek Viriyapant's wish to preserve sacred objects for the country. Although both Khun Lek and Khun Pagpean passed away before the construction was completed, their heirs continued their wish to create a place where ceremonies and festivals of Thai traditions might be held, and that would also serve as a museum to keep the memory of Khun Lek Viriyapant's life and work alive for future generations.

Srisakra Vallibhotama



Getting to The Erawan Museum

Bus : No. 25, 142, 365

Air - conditioned bus : No. 102, 507, 508, 511, 536

Open Everyday

8.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Admissions

Adult Baht 150.-

Children Baht 50.-

Erawan Museum

99/9 M.1 Muang Samutprakan, Samutprakan 10270

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www.erawan-museum.com

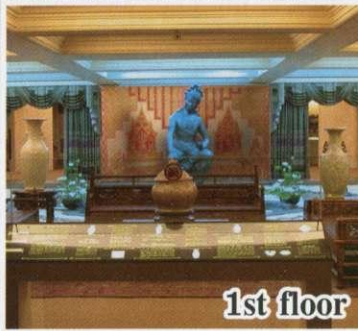


Ancient City Group

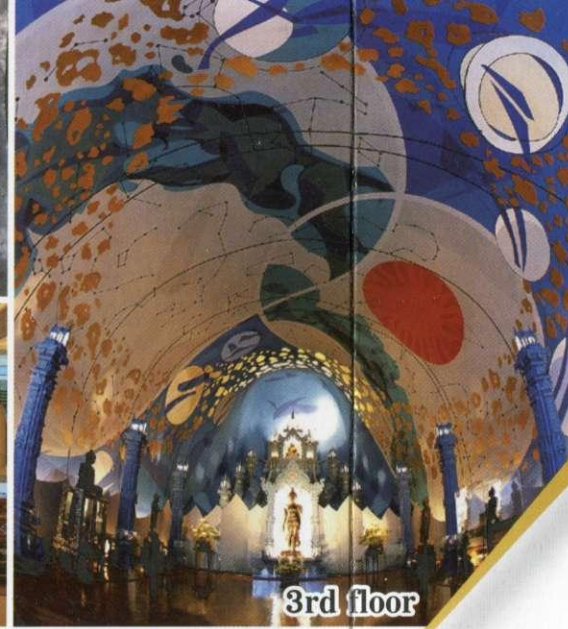
Erawan Museum
The Cosmography of the East



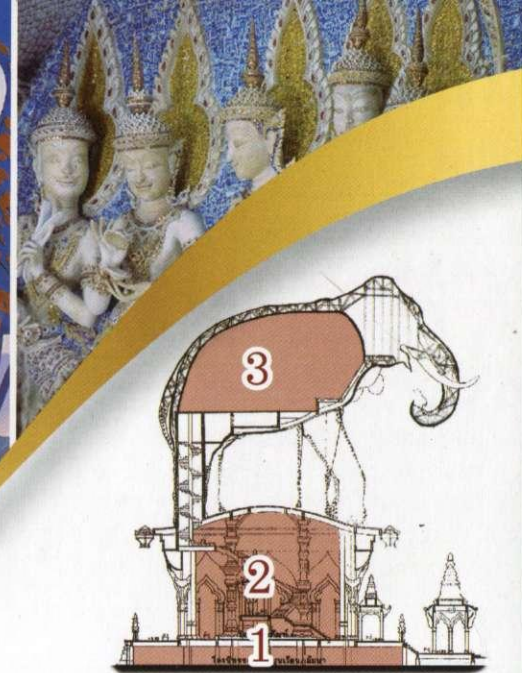
2nd floor



1st floor



3rd floor



Section Allocation in Erawan Museum

1. Basement or Underworld (Naga World)

Here presents the exhibitions concerning the background and the establishment of Erawan Museum, in addition to antique displays such as ancient furnitures, Chinese and Thai utensils etc.

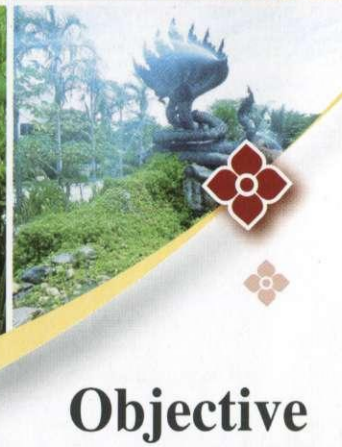
2. Hall or Human World

Both eastern and western antiquities are exhibited here. Interior decoration is the art m lange of various styles, including western stained-glass ceiling featuring the world map and zodiac, stucco works of Phetchaburi craftsmanship standing by the staircase and the elegant shrine housing Guan Yin, and the four pillars with embossed tin plates depicting religious stories and the benign moral principles supporting world peace.

3. Inside Elephant's Belly or Tavatimsa Heaven

Here houses Buddha's relics and Buddha images from different periods. The walls and ceiling are decorated with the tempera paintings depicting the solar system.

Around Erawan Museum lies the botanical garden noted in Thai literary and the sculpture of Himavanta animals such as kinnara, kinnari, naga, rajasingh etc inside this lush and shady garden.



Objective of Erawan Museum

❖ To continue the traditions of Thai arts and crafts and to disseminate knowledge of the national culture for young people and the general public.

❖ To provide a site where images of Buddha and objects of art can be housed and cared for in an appropriate and save environment so as to prevent their loss to foreign countries.

❖ To create an architectural environment symbolic of the cosmography of the East; the ground floor as The Underworld, the hall as Mount Meru, and the area within the Elephant where the images of Buddha are housed as tavatimsa Heaven.

Details of Erawan Museum

The height of the elephant	29	m.
The height, including the building	43.60	m.
The width of the elephant	12	m.
The length of the elephant	39	m.
The weight of the elephant's body	150	tons
The weight of the elephant's head	100	tons